

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 3 have been amended and claim 8 has been added. Claims 1-8 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sagawa et al. in view of Nakayama et al.

Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites that the filling material is "directly filled and cured in the depressions." It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose these features.

Furthermore, independent claim 1 recites that the surface has a surface roughness of less than 3 microns. In contrast, Sagawa et al. discloses that the finer the powder material is, the more likely it is to be captured by uncured resin, forced into the space between the powder particles in the resin layer, and bonded with one another. Sagawa et al., col. 13, ln. 62-66. However, this refers to the surface roughness of the powder coat, not the particle size of the magnet, as claimed.

Nakayama et al. does not overcome these deficiencies in Sagawa et al.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sagawa et al. in view of Nakayama et al. and further in view of Strnat

The above comments with respect to Sagawa et al. and Nakayama et al. also apply here. Strnat does not overcome the above deficiencies in Sagawa et al. and Nakayama et al. and is not relied upon by the Examiner to do so.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

NEW CLAIM:

New independent claim 8 is added and recites "directly filling a filling material with a

particle size between 0.1 and 15 microns in depressions between the particles of the metal alloy powder such that the surface has a surface roughness of less than 3 microns." Accordingly, claim 8 is patentable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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